



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 155

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2009

No. 6

House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 13, 2009, at 12:30 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2009

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JIM WEBB, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, from whom, through whom, and to whom all things exist, shower Your blessings upon our Senators. Give them special wisdom, strength, and clarity to meet today's daunting challenges. Enable them to hear with objectivity and respond with integrity as they comprehend their individual and collective responsibility. Keep them uncluttered by selfish interests and parochial concerns as they strive to serve You and country. Lord, make them exemplary models of the highest and finest in faithful, loyal, and dedicated leadership.

We pray in the name of Him who is Lord of history. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JIM WEBB led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, January 12, 2009.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JIM WEBB, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WEBB thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks, there will be a period of morning business for up to 1 hour, with the time designated for tributes to the Republican leader.

Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 22. This is postcloture. A rollcall vote will not be necessary to adopt the motion to proceed. I appreciate Dr. COBURN allowing us to do that. There will be no votes during today's session of the Senate.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR MITCH MCCONNELL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, for more than 25 years, the State of Kentucky

was represented in the Senate of the United States by a terrific man and a great legislator, Wendell Ford.

Senator Ford was known by all as a moderate, deeply respected by both sides of the aisle for putting progress ahead of politics. Senator Ford, some said, was not flashy. He did not seek the limelight. He was quietly effective and calmly deliberative.

In 1991, Senator Ford was elected by his colleagues to serve as Democratic whip, the No. 2 position in the caucus. For 8 years, he struck the perfect balance as an advocate for Kentuckians and also a national Democratic leader.

When Senator Ford retired from the Senate in 1998, I had the honor of replacing him as the Democratic whip.

Wendell Ford is not only a genuine Kentucky legend, he is a wonderful man, and I continue to enjoy his visits back to Washington, DC.

Until this week, Senator Ford was the longest serving Senator in the history of the State of Kentucky. We have had some outstanding Senators from the State of Kentucky.

Now that honor belongs to my friend, the Republican leader, MITCH MCCONNELL.

Senator MCCONNELL came to the Senate 2 years after I came to Congress. In 1984, he was elected to the Senate in a historic election still famous for its advertising—the most memorable of the spots featuring some real bloodhounds, always in search of the opponent of MITCH MCCONNELL, the incumbent Senator from Kentucky. Today, if you go to a seminar on politics, almost always they will show that ad as being one of

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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